

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health
FOR 1952

G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.

Medical Officer of Health for the Devizes Rural District

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1952.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1952.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Browfort, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres—63,515.

Population as Estimated by Registrar-General—15,420.

Number of Inhabited Houses—3,790.

Rateable Value—£69,485.

Product of a Penny Rate—£284 16s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	..	..	..	81	124	205
Legitimate	..	..	..	77	119	196
Illegitimate	..	..	..	4	5	9
Stillbirths	..	..	..	2	—	2
Legitimate	..	..	..	2	—	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate (Crude)	..	..				13. 3
Live Birth Rate (Adjusted)	..	..				19. 8
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales						15. 3
Comparability Factor	..	..				1.49
Number of Deaths from all causes	..			72	68	140
Crude Death Rate	..	..				9.08
Adjusted Death Rate	..	..				8.35
Death Rate for England and Wales	..					11. 3
Comparability Factor	..	..				0.92
Deaths of Infants under one year	..			2	4	6
Legitimate	..	..	..	2	3	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	1	1
Infantile Death Rate	..	..	..			29. 3

Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales		27.	6
Deaths as Result of Pregnancy and Child Birth (No. 30)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			0.72
Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of age	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.
As Returned by Registrar General, 1952.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	3	1	4
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	2	3	5
11.	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	2	—	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	4	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	—	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	5	17
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	16	22
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	11	6	17
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	10	10	20
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
22.	Influenza	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	4	4	8
24.	Bronchitis	3	1	4
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	2	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	—	5
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	9	13
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3

			Male.	Female.	Total
34.	All Other Accidents	..	..	1	— 1
35.	Suicide	..	..	1	— 1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	..	..	—	—
	All Causes	..	72	68	140

Satisfactory features are :—

The absence of deaths from acute infectious diseases (Nos. 4 to 9 inclusive and No. 22), and from pregnancy and childbirth (No. 30). The main causes of death were :—

1. Malignant Neoplasms
(Nos. 10—14 inclusive) 29 (20.7%)
2. Diseases of Cardio-vascular System
(Nos. 17—21 inclusive) 67 (48%)
3. Diseases of Respiratory System
(Nos. 23—25 inclusive and No. 1) 18 (12.8%)

Of these, four were from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as returned by the Registrar General.

That nearly half the total deaths were attributed to Cardio-vascular disease and one fifth to "Cancers," indicates an ageing population.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Chief Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor and Water Engineer)—
G. E. Williams, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—V. C. S. Robey, M.S.I.A.

Housing Inspector—E. C. Bishop.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Devizes and District Hospital.

Total Bed Complement 60

During the year, there were over 1,100 admissions (1,141) and all the Departments were busy.

Physiotherapy Department.

Out-Patient Attendances 10,669

In-Patient Attendances 1,325

Radiological Department.

Out-Patient Attendances 2,585

In-Patient Attendances 377

Out-Patient Department.

Number of new Out-Patients 2,663

Number of Attendances 8,659

Nearly 700 (683) surgical procedures were carried out; of these half (350) were major operations now classified under Groups A and B. Nursing shortages have been less evident.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	23
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	61
Measles	..	..	..	..	18
Acute Primary Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	2
Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	1

MATERNITY SERVICES.

Devizes Maternity Hospital (15 Beds).

During 1952 there were close on 400 admissions (385) with an average stay of a fortnight (14.7 days). There was a full complement of nurses throughout the year. This Hospital serves the Mid-Wilts Hospital Area, though of course the larger number of admissions are local ones including those from the Devizes Hostel.

Number of Institutional Confinements in \ Live Births 132
 respect of residents of the Rural District } Still Births 1

Number of Domiciliary Confinements in \ Live Births 53
 respect of residents of the Rural District } Still Births Nil

Under the new arrangements, women tend to be increasingly confined under hospital conditions away from home.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE GROUP	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—10 ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	* 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—65 ..	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Over 65 ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	4	6	3	—	4	1	—	—

* A transfer notification.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Primary Immunisations Completed during 1952											
Under 1	1—4	5—14	Total under 15 years								
91	66	34	191								
Reinforced Injections, 1952 : 321											
Total Immunised Child Population at 31st December, 1952											
Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total under 15				
9	105	151	129	157	878	905	2,334				

VACCINATION.

AGE GROUP	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 or over
Vaccinations ..	93	1	13	3	5
Re-vaccinations	—	—	5	24	28

HOUSING.

Number of houses completed during the year :—

	Traditional.	Non-Traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ..	16	47	63
2. By Private Enterprise ..	12	—	12
	—	—	—
	28	47	75
	—	—	—

Number of houses under construction at year's end :—

	Traditional.	Non-Traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ..	30	26	56
2. By Private Enterprise ..	4	—	4
	—	—	—
	34	26	60
	—	—	—

Number of houses approved, or for which licences have been granted, but not started at year's end :—

	Traditional.	Non-Traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ..	8	16	24
2. By Private Enterprise ..	2	—	2
	—	—	—
	10	16	26
	—	—	—

Sites purchased during the year :—

1. Bishops Cannings (Coate), 0.905 of an acre.
2. Market Lavington (Canada), 5.824 acres.
3. West Lavington (Sandfield Entrance), 0.676 of an acre.

Sites for which negotiations were in progress at year's end :—

1. Beechingstoke.
2. Bishops Cannings (Horton).
3. Bishops Cannings (Chandlers Lane).
4. Bromham (The Pound).
5. Bromham (Minty's Top).
6. Erlestoke (Village Street).
7. Little Cheverell (Westbury Road).
8. Patney (Hostel Site).
9. Potterne (Ryleaze).
10. Rowde (Devizes Road).
11. West Lavington (Wheatsheaf Field).

Number of new houses completed post-

War, at end of 1952	Council ..	260
	Private ..	63

One house was reconditioned during the year with the help of an Improvement Grant.

Details of other works of repair carried out during the year are to be found in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Steady progress has been made. Some pleasing groups of new Local Authority houses are taking shape, notably at Seend and Potterne. None the less, new houses, as they come along, have mainly to be used to rehouse families still without a home of their own, and to relieve gross overcrowding. To date the problem of "Slum Clearance" has been untouched, nor could all cases of statutory overcrowding be dealt with. Before long the desirability of making specific provision for old couples will need to be discussed. Pre-War family houses are by no means used to capacity, an old couple or even a single person being in some instances the sole occupants. Meanwhile there are families with young children living in sub-standard houses or with parents, who would be glad of the chance to get into a sound dwelling at a modest rental, but hesitate to apply for new Council houses on economic grounds.

I fully concur with the opinions on your housing problems expressed by your Senior Sanitary Inspector in his portion of this Report.

WATER SUPPLIES.

No material betterment took place during 1952. The need for augmentation of existing supplies becomes increasingly needful. For details see Water Engineer's Report.

SEWERAGE.

No new schemes came into operation during the year though one at Erlestoke was under construction throughout 1952. Such schemes are the only answer to the problem of nuisance where streams or open ditches become fouled. Of the former there are two especially bad examples in Urchfont and in the Lavington area, i.e. Easterton, Market Lavington and West Lavington. Etchilhampton and Poulshot typify the sort of village where open ditch drainage, with low fall, gives rise to offence in the Summer months.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1952

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Reynolds and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report in conjunction with your Medical Officer of Health. The Report contains some particulars of my duties as Water Engineer and Surveyor where these have a direct bearing on public health matters :—

HOUSING.

There was a visible easing of housing demand during the year, the more rapid progress made with the Council House Programme during 1950, 1951 and 1952, compared with the relatively slow progress in the period 1946–49, having had its effect in helping to break the back of the problem. It is suggested that the time is now ripe for giving closer study and detailed consideration to the problem of demolishing houses which are unfit for occupation. The problem bristles with human, technical, financial and legal difficulties. It is far more complicated and detailed than anything previously tackled in housing and will call for much patience, tenacity of purpose and forethought. The obvious starting point would be to secure the demolition of the outstanding seventy or so properties which were the subject of Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders made fifteen years ago. These are mostly in Potterne, Market Lavington and West Lavington, three parishes where plans for future housing estates are well advanced. The occupants of houses in these parishes which already have demolition orders on them should rank high for re-housing. There is a legal obligation on the Council to rehouse most of them.

Until the national policy, or lack of policy, as expressed in the Rent Restrictions Act and the Building Licensing Regulations is revised, the repair Sections of the Housing Acts are rendered virtually inoperative. For these reasons it has not been possible to secure many results by way of repair and improvement to privately owned property.

The following is a copy of a Return made to the County Medical Officer of Health concerning the inspection of houses during the year and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

1.	<i>Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.</i>	
	(a) <i>By Local Authority</i>	63
	(b) <i>Private Enterprise</i>	12
2.	<i>Inspection of Dwellings during the year.</i>	
	(i) <i>Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts</i>	12
	(ii) <i>Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts</i>	76
	(iii) <i>Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation</i>	32
	(iv) <i>Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation</i>	56

3.	<i>Remedy of Defects by Informal Action.</i>	
	<i>Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action</i>	52
4.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts).</i>	
(A)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(i)	<i>Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..</i>	—
(ii)	<i>Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—</i>	
(a)	<i>By Owners</i>	—
(b)	<i>By Local Authority in default of owners ..</i>	—
(B)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(i)	<i>Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served</i>	—
(ii)	<i>Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—</i>	
(a)	<i>By Owners</i>	—
(b)	<i>By Local Authority in default of owners ..</i>	—
(C)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(i)	<i>Number of Demolition Orders made</i>	2
(ii)	<i>Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders</i>	7
(iii)	<i>Number of undertakings accepted</i>	1
(iv)	<i>Number of undertakings completed</i>	—
(D)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26, Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(i)	<i>Number of houses upon which Demolition Orders were made</i>	—
(ii)	<i>Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders</i>	—
(E)	<i>Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(i)	<i>Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made</i>	
(ii)	<i>Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit</i>	—
5.	<i>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.</i>	
(i)	<i>Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year</i>	58
	<i>at time of Rural Housing Survey</i>	
(ii)	<i>Number of cases discovered during the year ..</i>	2
(iii)	<i>Number of cases abated during the year ..</i>	1

No applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts. This otherwise excellent scheme embodies all the advantages of the old Housing (Rural Workers) Act and eliminates its weaknesses. It is practically a dead letter so far as the Council's area is concerned. This is probably due to the high cost of building operations and, to a lesser extent, to the operation of the Quota System under the Building Licensing Regulations.

WATER SUPPLY.

Area Supplied.

Of the twenty-four parishes in the District eight only are totally served by water mains and eight partly served. The Council now own the following water systems :—

1. The Great Cheverell System.
2. The Nursteed System.
3. The Roundway System.
4. The Brickley Lane System.
5. All Cannings Council House System.
6. Marden Council House System.
7. Chirton Council House System.
8. Urchfont Council House System.
9. Etchilhampton Council House System.
10. Patney Hostel System (Part Ownership).

The following tables I and II show the position in regard to the availability of piped water supplies :—

TABLE I.

Parish	Details of Connections				Population Supplied
	Domestic	Pt. Domestic & Pt. Trade	Trade	Halls, etc.	
GREAT CHEVERELL SYSTEM					
Great Cheverell ..	89	10	7	1	347
Market Lavington ..	264	29	11	1	1,026
Marston	29	10	1	—	137
Potterne	237	24	12	2	914
Poulshot	64	15	8	1	277
Rowde	160	20	18	1	630
Seend	224	38	28	—	917
Worton	81	12	6	2	326
Bromham	51	10	—	—	214
Easterton	32	1	5	—	116
Little Cheverell ..	14	4	—	—	63
West Lavington ..	56	1	2	—	200
Outside Area ..	—	1	3	—	4
MAIN EXTENSIONS FROM BOROUGH					
Bishops Cannings ..	16	—	—	—	56
Roundway ..	51	5	1	—	196
FROM W.D. SOURCE					
Erlestoke	12	—	—	—	42
	1,380	180	102	8	5,465

TABLE II.

Parish	No. of Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
COUNCIL HOUSE		
ESTATE BOREHOLES		
All Cannings	6	21
Chirton	14	49
Etchilhampton	8	28
Marden	6	21
Urchfont	22	77
Patney	4	14
Total	60	210

In the village of Bishops Cannings the majority of houses are supplied by the Devizes Borough Council. Roundway Hospital is also supplied by the Borough.

About 250 houses are supplied by various Estate and Farm Systems in several parishes. These are in addition to the houses shown in Tables I and II.

New Connections.

Domestic	Great Cheverell System ..	86
Part Domestic and Part Trade	Great Cheverell System ..	4
Trade Only	Great Cheverell System ..	15
Church	Great Cheverell System ..	1
Domestic	Council House Estate Boreholes	16

TABLE III.

The amount of water supplied in 1952 from Great Cheverell and Devizes Borough sources, expressed in gallons per month:

	Great Cheverell	Nursteed	Fairway	Dunkirk	Brickley Lane	Round- way
Jan.	2,927,500	6,760	566,000	720,000	14,660	—
Feb.	2,901,600	6,650	693,000	718,000	16,270	—
Mar.	3,119,800	8,940	779,000	728,000	16,490	—
Apl.	2,866,900	7,810	701,000	734,000	16,060	—
May	2,929,500	7,810	773,000	779,000	17,370	—
June	2,717,600	5,500	1,201,000	797,000	14,900	—
July	2,883,900	10,050	1,497,000	816,000	18,030	—
Aug.	2,595,999	7,670	1,267,000	629,000	†	—
Sept.	2,373,300	4,030	1,305,000	727,000	31,350*	—
Oct.	2,431,000	5,620	1,377,000	705,000	16,320	—
Nov.	2,691,900	5,980	1,174,000	638,000	15,900	7,550
Dec.	3,011,000	6,800	1,512,000	1,132,000	15,070	7,400
Note. † Brickley Lane Meter inaccessible. * Brickley Lane Meter—two months reading.						
	33,449,999	83,620	12,845,000	9,123,000	192,420	14,950

Supplied from Great Cheverell Borehole ..	33,449,999
Supplied from Devizes Borough ..	22,258,990
Total supplied for 1952	55,708,989

This total shows an increase of 9,105,339 over the amount for 1951, or approximately 20%.

The average daily consumption per head of population including both trade and domestic is 29 gallons.

The Great Cheverell System.

Difficulty was experienced in maintaining a continuous supply of water to all parts of the area supplied by this scheme, particularly during periods of hot weather when the consumption shows a very marked increase over the average, and many complaints were received. Owing to the inadequate discharge capacity of the Devizes Borough mains it is understood that frequent complaints are made by consumers within the Borough of inadequate pressure and occasionally a total absence of any supply. The Borough has thus to restrict their supply into the Council's system and for this purpose the supply was severed at the Rowde interconnection on two days per week during the summer months.

It will be seen from Table III that forty per cent of the total water supplied on the Great Cheverell System was obtained from the Devizes Borough Source.

With a view to augmenting the Great Cheverell Source operations were commenced in July for the sinking of a new borehole adjoining the existing reservoir at Great Cheverell. Even if this borehole is successful there will still remain the problem of improving the means for distributing the increased supply of water. It has been apparent to the Council for many years that the only way to secure an adequate supply of water to the Great Cheverell System and to improve the means for distributing was by way of interconnection with the proposed North Western and South Eastern Schemes. If the proposed borehole at Great Cheverell is unsuccessful it may be advisable to proceed with the proposed Southern (The Warren) Scheme in addition to the above.

As the Great Cheverell System ages it becomes increasingly evident that more attention must be paid to the detection and prevention of waste, the misuse of water and undue consumption. It is obviously unwise to incur heavy extra capital expenditure to augment a system if that system is leaking extensively or if the water is being misused or unduly consumed. Water wasted entails the need for a larger supply and a larger scheme than is economically justified. The first step must be to reduce waste to a minimum and to keep consumption within reasonable limits, otherwise the capital and operational expenditure on both the existing system and proposed augmentation are wasted.

The manual of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning on "The Submission and Consideration of Schemes of Water Supply" states inter alia :

"In present conditions with shortages of labour and materials and the urgent need for bringing piped supplies to rural areas, the nation cannot afford the construction of new works to meet unnecessary demands for water. The Minister has decided that he must be fully satisfied that effective measures for the prevention of waste are in operation, before he will approve of new works in any area for augmenting supplies."

Quality of Great Cheverell Supply.

The quality of the water supplied by the Council from the Great Cheverell boreholes continues to be satisfactory, as endorsed by the results of samples submitted for bacteriological examination as set out below :—

TABLE IV.
Results of Samples of Great Cheverell Public Supply.

Date	Before or After Chlorination	Result
30. 1.52	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
30. 1.52	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
27. 3.52	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
27. 3.52	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
5. 8.52	Before	Fair
5. 8.52	After	Fair
11. 8.52	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
11. 8.52	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
5.11.52	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
5.11.52	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory

POST WAR WATER SCHEMES.

Scheme No. 1. North West Area. (Bulk Supply from Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council).

Some progress was made in regard to this scheme. I hope that progress will be at an accelerated tempo in the near future as not only is water badly needed in the parish of Bromham but it is also the scheme which will afford the greatest measure of augmentation for the hard pressed Great Cheverell System.

Scheme No. 2. North Eastern Area. (Bulk Supply from Devizes Borough Council).

This scheme has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and delivery of a substantial quantity of pipes, etc. has been made.

Scheme No. 3. South Eastern Area. (Chirton Borehole).

Some progress has also been made in regard to this scheme. Following a Public Inquiry the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was received.

Scheme No. 4. (The Warren).

Practically no progress was made in regard to this scheme. If the new borehole at Great Cheverell is successful it may not be necessary to proceed with this scheme for the present, at least.

Roundway Scheme.

This small scheme which supplies the village of Roundway was completed and put into operation during the year.

Erlestoke Scheme.

Work was commenced early in the year on this scheme.

General Observations on the Water Supply Position.

Progress with the Council's Post War Water Schemes is slow. Fortunately it appears likely that better progress will be made in 1953 with the possibility of the Acceptance of Tender stage being reached in at least one contract.

SEWERAGE.

The Council are responsible for :—

13.6 miles of public piped sewer.

4.4 miles of public sewer ditch.

Several miles of private sewer and drains on Council house estates.

20 sewage works.

During the year the village of Erlestoke was provided with a public sewerage system. The contract was carried out at the same time as the water system but as this was not finished in 1952 there will be a short delay before the sewerage system is brought into commission.

Permission was sought to carry out a further instalment of the Potterne sewerage scheme.

Apart from these two parishes there is no other properly designed parish or village sewerage scheme in the District.

The drainage arrangements in the parishes of Easterton, Market Lavington and West Lavington are a hotch-potch of road drains cum sewers, open ditches and channels. They all discharge crude untreated sullage or sewage into the main watercourse in each village and cause gross pollution on certain stretches. Where these adjoin habitations attempts are made periodically to cleanse them but it is not practicable to remove all pollution. Frequent complaints are received both before and after these cleansings.

Plans of thirty-one septic tanks and drainage systems for private houses were approved.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Particulars of foods condemned as unfit for human consumption are as follows :—

Cheese	1 lb.	Rancid.
Beef	19½ lbs.	Fractured aitch bone blood suffused muscu- lature.
Lamb	34½ lbs.	Extensive moulds.
5 tins Danish Luncheon Meat	4 lbs.	Blown.
12 tins Irish Ham	12 lbs.	Decomposition and putrefaction.

Considerable improvements have been secured to food premises during the past three years following the detailed survey of 1950.

A very unsatisfactory food stores in Market Lavington and the absence of washing and sanitary accommodation in connection therewith was dealt with by the entire rebuilding of this part of the premises.

Periodical inspections of food premises were made during the year as detailed in the Summary of Inspections on the last page.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are eight registered "Distributors" operating in the district and only two of these have premises within the area.

A number of other persons produce and retail milk in the district, but in these cases the Council are only concerned with the cleanliness of the milk after it has left the producer's premises.

One Dealer's Licence and one Supplementary Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" and one Supplementary Licence to use the designation "Pasteurised" were issued.

ICE CREAM.

There are twenty-six registered retailers of ice cream in the area. The premises are satisfactory.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The fortnightly collection of refuse throughout the district has been maintained.

Collection is confined to premises that are reasonably adjacent to public highways and the householder is required to place the bin near the kerbside.

Certain routes are becoming overloaded consequent on the building of relatively large numbers of houses. It will be necessary to reorganise the collection scheme in the near future and additional expenditure must be envisaged.

Most of the refuse collected by the Council is disposed of at Heron Bridge and the modified system of controlled tipping is working satisfactorily with freedom from nuisance.

Nuisance from flies and smoke arose from the operation of the Seend refuse tip during the year. This tip is let to a contractor for the disposal of refuse from certain Service Establishments principally in the Council's area. The agreement governing this arrangement embodies stringent conditions and the enforcement of these reduced the nuisances to a minimum.

Fourteen tons, twelve hundredweights and two quarters of waste paper was salvaged and baled and sold for £148 16s. 0d.

The extraordinary fall in price from £16 to £4 10s. 0d. per ton the difficulty of getting paper mills to accept waste paper and public apathy contributed to a reduction in the amount salvaged as compared with 1951.

RODENT CONTROL.

The arrangement for the sharing of the work of the Rodent Operative with the Devizes Borough Council was continued.

The main treatment was concentrated on sewer ditches and the two refuse tips.

The results of treatment carried out are as follows :—

218 houses, 5 farms, 20 business premises and 6 Council properties were treated during the year.

30 block control treatments were carried out.

FACTORIES ACT.

There are fifty-three factories in the district. Particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows :—

Twenty-three inspections were made during the year. Cases in which defects were found are tabulated below.

Particulars of Defect	No.	Action	
Cleanliness of factories	3	Remedied	3
Inadequate ventilation	1	Remedied	1
Defective flooring	1	Outstanding	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	1	Remedied	1
Bad arrangement of bakehouse ..	1	Remedied	1

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Licences are in force in respect of five sites. Individual licences were granted in respect of seven movable dwellings.

COMPLAINTS.

The following table shows the position in regard to complaints made to your Officers either verbally or by correspondence.

Type of Complaint.	Number.	Reme- died.	Out- standing.	No action necessary.
Housing (excluding Council houses)	8	6	2	—
Overcrowding	2	1	1	—
Insanitary houses	3	3	—	—
Sewerage	8	7	1	—
Drainage	30	29	1	—
Sanitary accommodation	2	1	1	—
Disposal of night soil	3	3	—	—
River pollution	2	—	2	—
Water supply	6	6	—	—
Refuse	10	10	—	—
Food shops	2	2	—	—
Keeping of animals	1	1	—	—
Footpaths	2	2	—	—
Miscellaneous	6	3	—	3
	—	—	—	—
	85	74	8	3
	—	—	—	—

BUILDING LICENSING REGULATIONS.

Twenty-seven licences to the value of £11,537 were issued for repairs, alterations and improvements to dwellings. The small quota granted restricted the improvement and modernisation of old property.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

184 plans were submitted for approval.

The explanation of the complicated procedures in regard to the submission of plans and application for licences, etc. made heavy inroads on the time of your officers. In many cases applicants were not willing to engage professional assistance from persons who are acquainted with the complexities of the law governing these matters; this means that your officers have to fulfil that role.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing	..	..	..	..	..	135
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	75
Building	..	..	..	..	..	362
Drains	..	..	..	..	..	370
Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	230
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	309
Water Samples	..	..	..	..	..	58
Cowsheds and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	6
Food	..	..	..	..	..	9
Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	29
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	13
Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	124
Workshops and Factories	..	..	..	..	..	15
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	17
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	14
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	453
Town and Country Planning	..	..	..	..	..	181
Building Licensing Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	15
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	74

I should like to express my thanks to the staff of the Department for their efficient and willing co-operation and to the Council for their continued appreciation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. E. WILLIAMS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

